



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
ACCORDING TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**

APPLICANT(S): Osamu Aoki, et al. DOCKET NO: P06,0070

SERIAL NO.: 10/579,668 ART UNIT: 2186

FILED: May 17, 2006 EXAMINER:
CONF. NO. 9380

TITLE: INVALIDITY MONITORING PROGRAM, INVALIDITY MONITORING
METHOD AND INVALIDITY MONITORING SYSTEM

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98, Applicant respectfully requests that a citation and examination of the references identified on the attached PTO/SB/08 form be made during the course of examination of the above-identified application for United States Patent.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) and before the latter occurrence of:

- (1) three months from the filing date of a national application;
- (2) three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

REMARKS

The attached PTO/SB/08 form lists related art references for the above identified application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii), no copies of the U.S. patent documents are being supplied herewith, but will be provided upon request.

EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

References AA–AG are Japanese patents that were cited in the International

Search Report. An English-language translation of the abstracts has been provided, and a full translation of these documents will be produced upon request of the Examiner.

The filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the present Information Disclosure Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The above citation of related art is not a representation that such art constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of all pertinent related art, nor that it necessarily includes the closest or most relevant art. The aforementioned citation comprises a voluntary citation of related art of which applicant and his attorney are presently aware and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the Examiner's own search.

Submitted by,

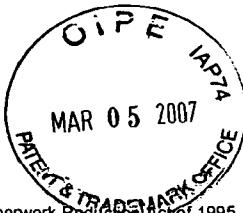
Mark Bergner (Reg. No. 45,877)

Mark Bergner
SCHIFF HARDIN LLP
PATENT DEPARTMENT
6600 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473
(312) 258-5779
Attorney for Applicant(s)
CUSTOMER NUMBER 26574

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on Feb. 28, 2007

Mark Bergner



PTO/SB/08A (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/579,668
Filing Date	May 17, 2006
First Named Inventor	Osamu Aoki
Art Unit	2186
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	P06.0070

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	AA	JP 11-25045	05/17/1989	Matsushita Electric Ind. Co Ltd		Abs
	AB	JP 5-120194	05/18/1993	NEC Eng. Ltd		Abs
	AC	JP 2002-232451	08/16/2002	Layer Seven Co. Ltd		Abs
	AD	JP 2002-288087	10/04/2002	Humming Heads Inc.		Abs
	AE	JP 2003-44297	02/14/2003	Humming Heads Inc.		Abs
	AF	JP 2003-233521	08/22/2003	Hitachi Ltd		Abs

Examiner Signature	/Jeffery Williams/	Date Considered	09/11/2008
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /J.W./

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 2

Complete if Known

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		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	AG	JP 2003-296193	10/17/2003	Seiko Instruments Inc.		Abs

Examiner Signature	/Jeffery Williams/	Date Considered	09/11/2008
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language</p>			

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